

November 23, 2016

Mr. Donald Trump
Office of President-Elect
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

On behalf of the U.S. scientific, engineering, and higher education community we are looking forward to working with you, as 45th President of the United States, and your administration.

As President you will face a wide range of domestic and international challenges, from protecting national and energy security, to ensuring U.S. economic competitiveness, curing diseases, and responding to natural disasters. These challenges share one thing in common: the need for scientific knowledge and technological expertise to address them successfully.

For this reason, we urge that you quickly appoint a science advisor with the title of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology who is a nationally respected leader with the appropriate engineering, scientific, management and policy skills necessary for this critically important role. This senior level advisor can assist you in determining effective ways to use science and technology to address major national challenges. Moreover, this individual can coordinate relevant science and technology policy and personnel decisions within the executive branch of government.

The economic benefits of advancements in science, technology and innovation have been well documented, estimated by leading economists to have accounted for approximately half of U.S. economic growth over the last fifty years. Past government investments in the U.S. scientific and technological enterprise have fueled our economy, created new jobs, and ensured our global competitiveness and national security. At the same time, these investments have enabled the development of a system of U.S. research universities and national laboratories unmatched in the world.

We know that one of your top priorities will be to focus on ensuring that the U.S. economy remains strong and continues to grow. If we are to maintain America's global leadership, and respond to the economic and security challenges currently facing the nation, we must build on our strong history of federal support for innovation, entrepreneurship and science and technology.

Toward that end we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or leaders of your transition team to discuss how the science and engineering community can assist with developing a path forward to ensure that the U.S. innovation infrastructure grows and flourishes under your administration and to suggest candidates for top science and technology posts.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response. You may contact Joanne Carney (jcarney@aaas.org) with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to coordinate a convenient meeting time, and we will follow up with a proposed list of attendees.

Rush D. Holt
Chief Executive Officer
American Association for the Advancement of
Science

Kevin B. Marvel
Executive Officer
American Astronomical Society

Donna J. Nelson
President
American Chemical Society

Chris McEntee
Executive Director and CEO
American Geophysical Union

Milan P. Yager
Executive Director
American Institute for Medical and Biological
Engineering

Robert G.W. Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Institute of Physics

Kate P. Kirby
Chief Executive Officer
American Physical Society

Martin Frank
Executive Director
American Physiological Society

Stefano Bertuzzi
Chief Executive Officer
American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

Crispin Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
American Society of Plant Biologists

Nancy Kidd
Executive Officer
American Sociological Association

Robert H. Rich
Executive Director
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States
(ARCUS)

Thomas G. Loughlin
Executive Director
ASME

Sarah Brookhart
Executive Director
Association for Psychological Science

Mary Sue Coleman
President
Association of American Universities

Peter McPherson
President
Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities

Keith Yamamoto
Chair
Coalition for the Life Sciences

RADM Jonathan White (ret., USN)
President and CEO
Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Wendy A. Naus
Executive Director
Consortium of Social Science Associations

Madeleine Jacobs
President and CEO
Council of Scientific Society Presidents

David M. Lodge
President
Ecological Society of America

Howard H. Garrison
Deputy Executive Director for Policy
Federation of American Societies for
Experimental Biology

Shirley M. Tilghman
Co-founder
Rescuing Biomedical Research

Mary Woolley
President
Research!America

John C. Nemeth.
Executive Director and CEO
SIGMA Xi, The Scientific Research Society

Thomas Grumbly
President
SoAR Foundation

Marty Saggese
Executive Director
Society for Neuroscience

Peter Walter
President
The American Society for Cell Biology

Elizabeth A. Rogan
Chief Executive Officer
The Optical Society (OSA)